

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended, per the Examiner's suggestion, to indicate the present status of the parent applications.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 8 are directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 3, and claim 3 has been canceled as redundant. Further, claim 40 has been added, incorporating the subject matter of prior claim 1 and prior dependent claims 7-8. Claims 41-47 depend from newly-added claim 40. No new matter is added. These amendments are believed to place claim 1 and claim 40, and their respective dependent claims, in condition for allowance in accordance with the Action.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 13 and 17 are directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 11 has been amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 13, and claim 13 has been canceled as redundant. Further, claim 48 has been added, incorporating the subject matter of prior claim 11 and prior dependent claims 16-17. Claims 49-55 depend from newly-added claim 48. No new matter is added. These amendments are believed to place claim 11 and claim 48, and their respective dependent claims, in condition for allowance in accordance with the Action.

Regarding the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection, it should be noted that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection. Nevertheless, merely in order to expedite prosecution of this present applications, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of the corresponding rejection.

Finally, Applicant has canceled the claims previously withdrawn in order to expedite the prosecution of this case. Applicant reserves the right to file claims directed to the corresponding subject matter in a divisional application.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and notice of the same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.


John R. Owen
Registration No.: 42,055
Telephone: (919) 854-1844
Facsimile: (919) 854-2084

Dated: June 26, 2006